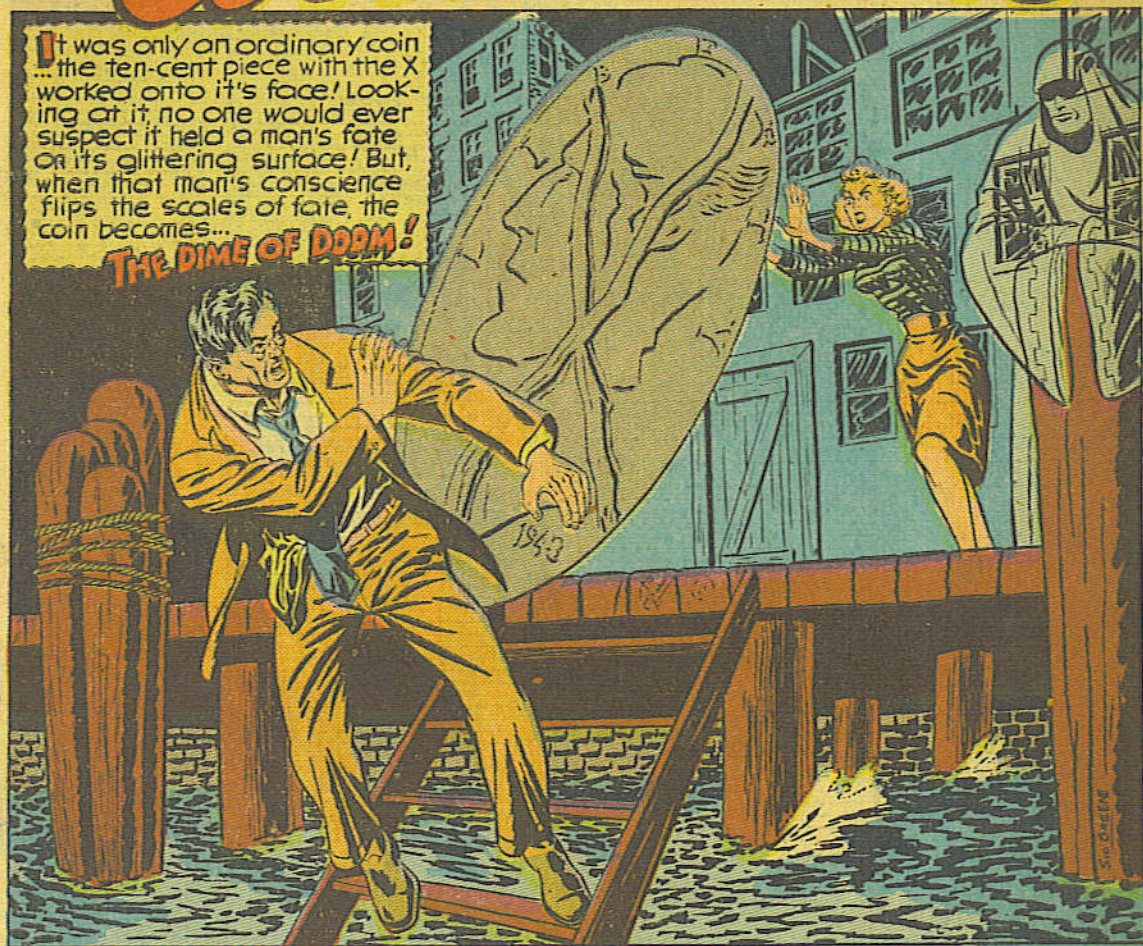


The Unknown

It was only an ordinary coin... the ten-cent piece with the X worked onto it's face! Looking at it, no one would ever suspect it held a man's fate on its glittering surface! But, when that man's conscience flips the scales of fate, the coin becomes...

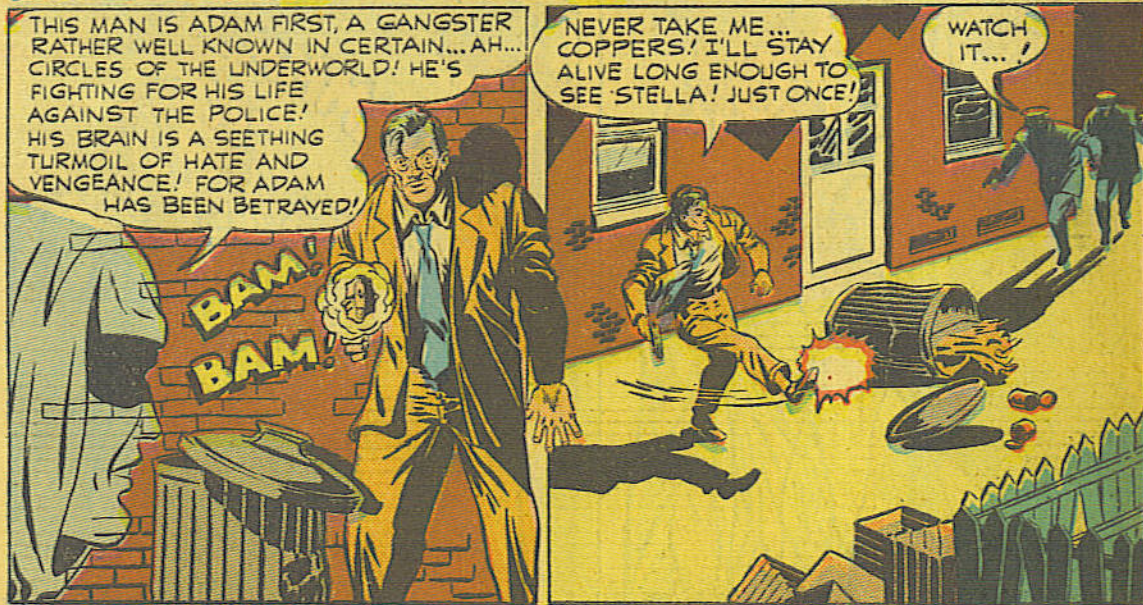
THE DIME OF DOOM!



THIS MAN IS ADAM FIRST, A GANGSTER RATHER WELL KNOWN IN CERTAIN... AH... CIRCLES OF THE UNDERWORLD! HE'S FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST THE POLICE! HIS BRAIN IS A SEETHING TURMOIL OF HATE AND VENGEANCE! FOR ADAM HAS BEEN BETRAYED!

NEVER TAKE ME... COPPERS! I'LL STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE STELLA! JUST ONCE!

WATCH IT...!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

STELLA DOUBLE-CROSSED ME! A DAME ONLY DOES THAT *ONCE* TO ME! I'M COMING FOR YOU, STELLA!



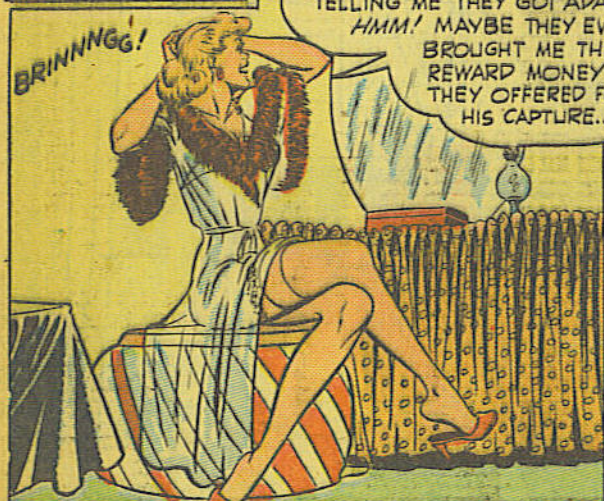
ADAM THINKS HE'S SAFE! HE DOESN'T HEAR ANYONE COMING AFTER HIM! HIS HEART IS BEATING FAST, BUT THAT'S NOT FROM FEAR! IT'S THE RAGE BOILING INSIDE HIM!

SAFE ENOUGH TO GO OUT NOW! SAFE ENOUGH TO PAY STELLA A VISIT...



A LITTLE LATER...

MAYBE THAT'S THE POLICE TELLING ME THEY GOT ADAM! HMM! MAYBE THEY EVEN BROUGHT ME THE REWARD MONEY THEY OFFERED FOR HIS CAPTURE...



COME ON, LUCKY DIME! YOU AND MAMMA ARE OUT TO COLLECT SOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIKE YOU!

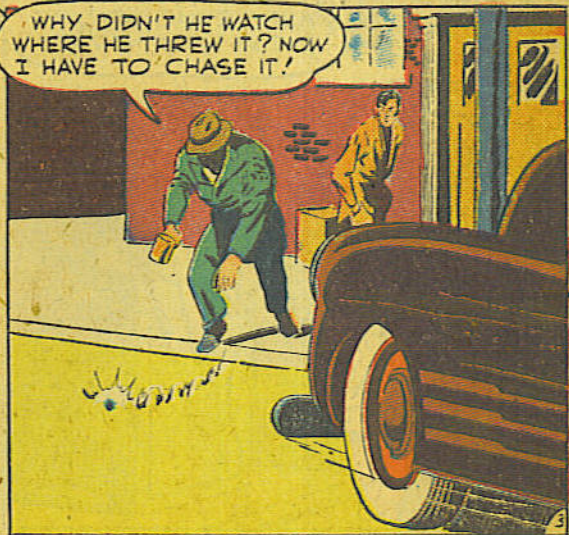
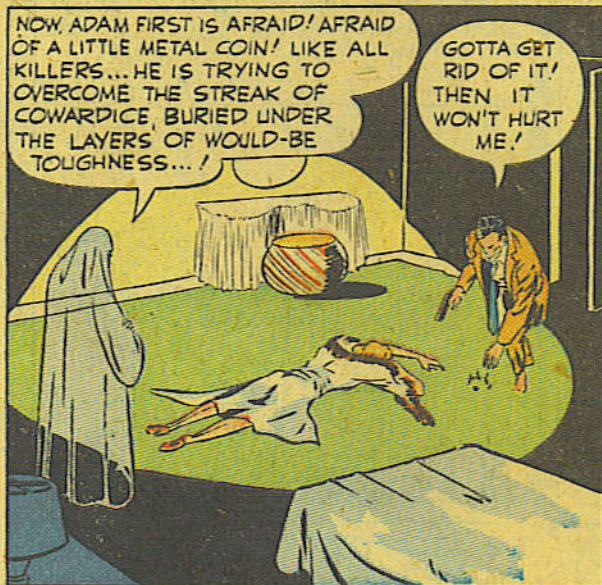


YOU! ADAM! I-WAIT! LISTEN TO ME...!



BLAMMM!

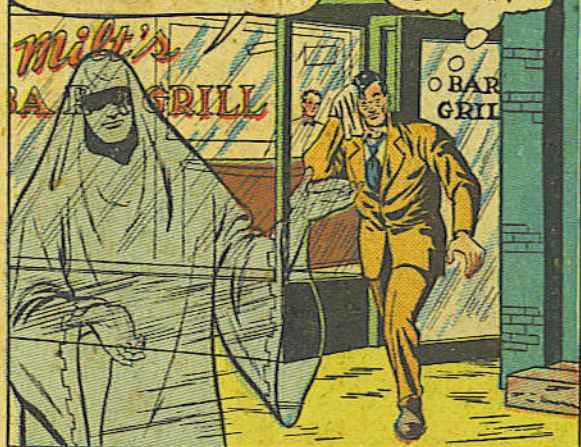






THAT'S NERVOUS SWEAT ON ADAM FIRST'S BROW! HE'S BECOMING ALARMED! SO FAR HE HASN'T HAD MUCH LUCK GETTING RID OF THAT DIME...

MAYBE HER CURSE IS STILL ON IT! MAYBE I'LL... NEVER GET RID OF IT...!



HEY, MISTER! YOU DROPPED A DIME!

NOT ME, SISTER! YOU MADE A MISTAKE! KEEP IT WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!



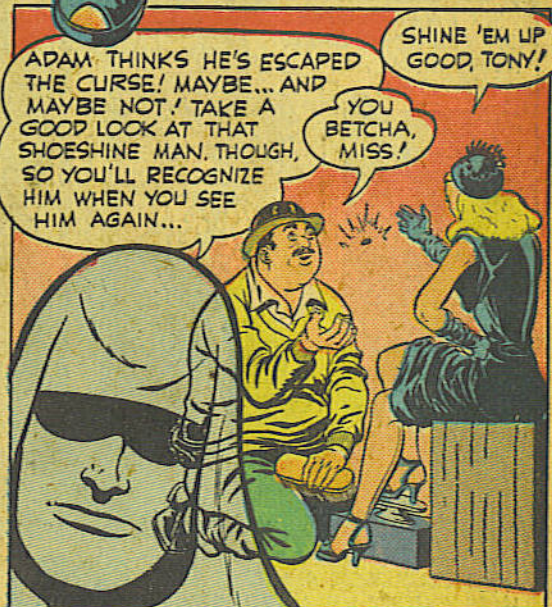
BAH! I'M JUST GIVING MYSELF FITS THINKING ABOUT IT! I'LL THROW IT AWAY...!



ADAM THINKS HE'S ESCAPED THE CURSE! MAYBE... AND MAYBE NOT! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THAT SHOESHINE MAN, THOUGH, SO YOU'LL RECOGNIZE HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM AGAIN...

SHINE 'EM UP GOOD, TONY!

YOU BETCHA, MISS!



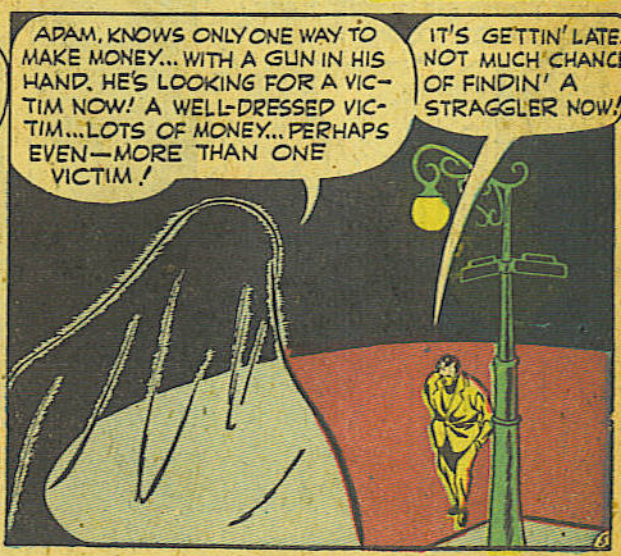
THAT NIGHT, ALONE IN HIS ROOM...

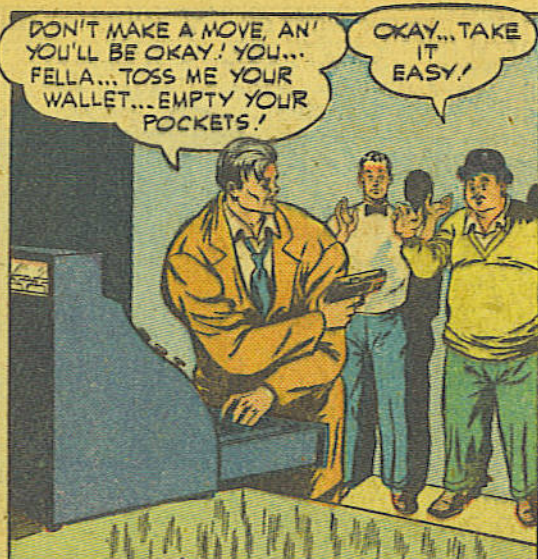
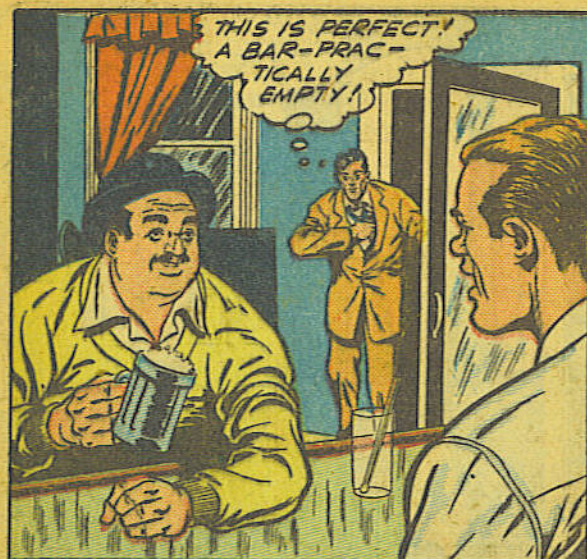
I'LL GET OUT OF TOWN! BUT I'LL NEED A LITTLE STAKE! STELLA TOOK PLENTY TO KEEP HER HAPPY! I'M BROKE!



ADAM KNOWS ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE MONEY... WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND. HE'S LOOKING FOR A VICTIM NOW! A WELL-DRESSED VICTIM... LOTS OF MONEY... PERHAPS EVEN—MORE THAN ONE VICTIM!

IT'S GETTIN' LATE! NOT MUCH CHANCE OF FINDIN' A STRAGGLER NOW!



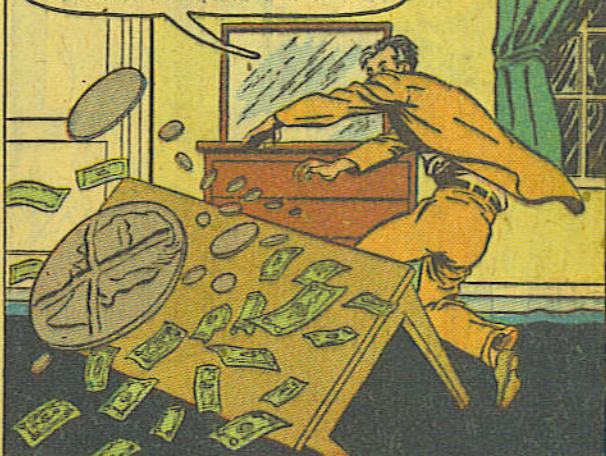


YEAH, FIVE
BUCKS...
**THAT
DIME!**

HIS WORDS CATCH IN HIS
THROAT AS ADAM EXTENDS A
HAND TOWARDS THE LITTLE
PILE OF COINS! HE SEES A
DIME... WITH A CURIOUS
SCRATCH ON IT!



GET AWAY! IT CAN'T BE!
STELLA... MAYBE SHE'S HERE...
IN THE ROOM... MAYBE SHE PUT
THE DIME THERE... AAAGGH!



HA! HA! HA! CAN
YOU HEAR ME,
STELLA? YOU'RE
DRIVING ME MAD!
MAD, YOU HEAR
ME?

HA! HA! HOW DID
YOU DO IT? CAN
YOU HEAR ME?
CAN YOU?



YOU'RE DEAD, STELLA! THERE
AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!
GO BACK TO THE GRAVE, STELLA!
LEMMIE ALONE! GO AWAY...
GO AWAY... TAKE THE
DIME WITH YOU...!

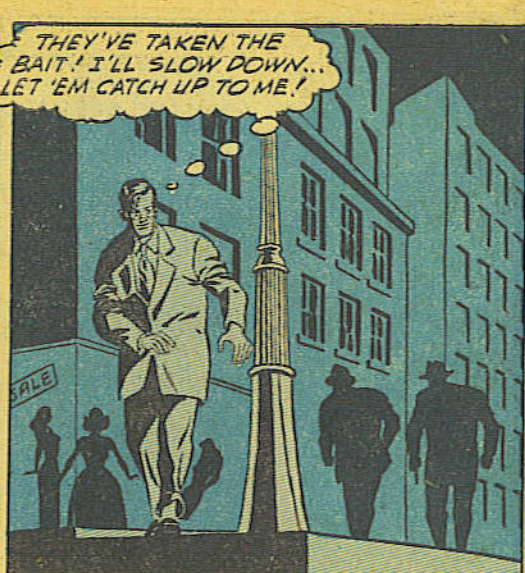
TAKE IT
EASY, BUD! YER
WAKIN' FOLKS UP!
PIPE DOWN!

PIPE DOWN? YEAH... I'LL
PIPE DOWN! C'MERE, DIME!
NICE LI'L DIME... GOIN'
I' TAKE A WALK WITH
YOU... C'MERE!



I KNOW HOW TO GET
RID OF THIS DIME! WHY
DIDN'T I THINK OF IT
SOONER?





ADAM FIRST TREMBLES AS HE REACHES FOR THE COFFEE! HIS HANDS QUIVER SO THAT HE CAN HARDLY CONTROL THEM!



STELLA MAYFAIR'S HER NAME... SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!

I'D GIVE A HUNDRED BUCKS TO GRAB THE KILLER!

ULP! HUH??



SPILLED COFFEE ON ME... GOT TO GET OUT... HAVE IT CLEANED...!

HAME EGGS GO!

Apple Pie No



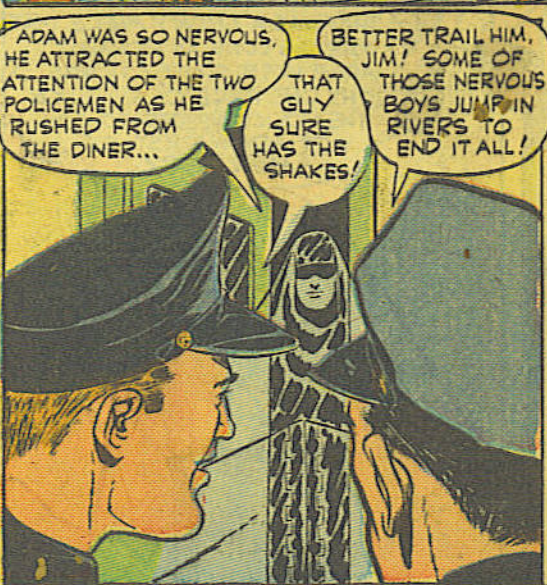
BOY... WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! WHEW! THOSE COPPERS... LOOKING FOR ME... AND I GOT AWAY!



ADAM WAS SO NERVOUS, HE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE TWO POLICEMEN AS HE RUSHED FROM THE DINER...

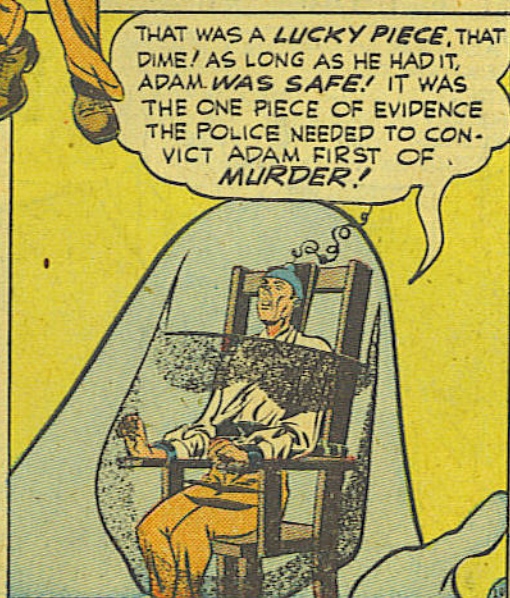
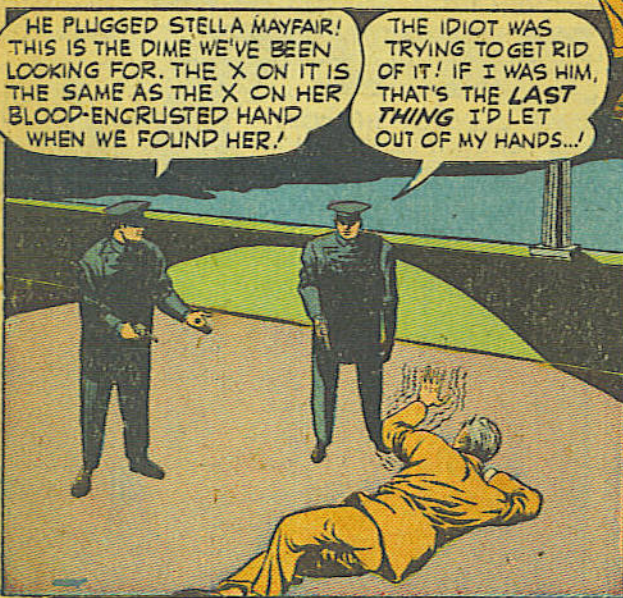
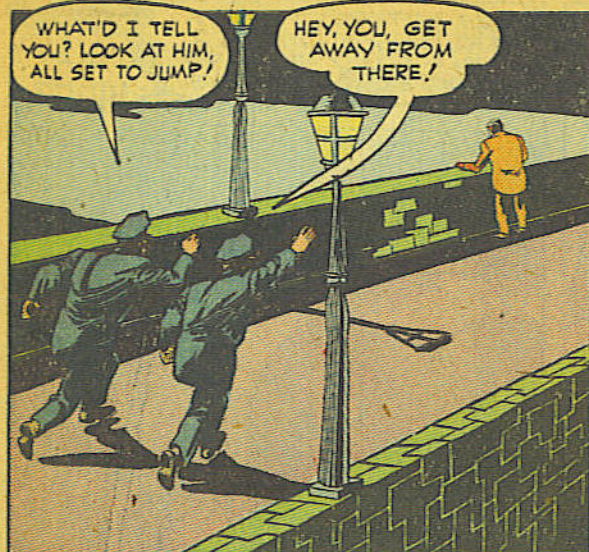
BETTER TRAIL HIM, JIM! SOME OF THOSE NERVOUS BOYS JUMP IN RIVERS TO END IT ALL!

THAT GUY SURE HAS THE SHAKES!



I'LL DROP THE COIN HERE... IT'LL SINK IN THE RIVER... BE LOST FOREVER!



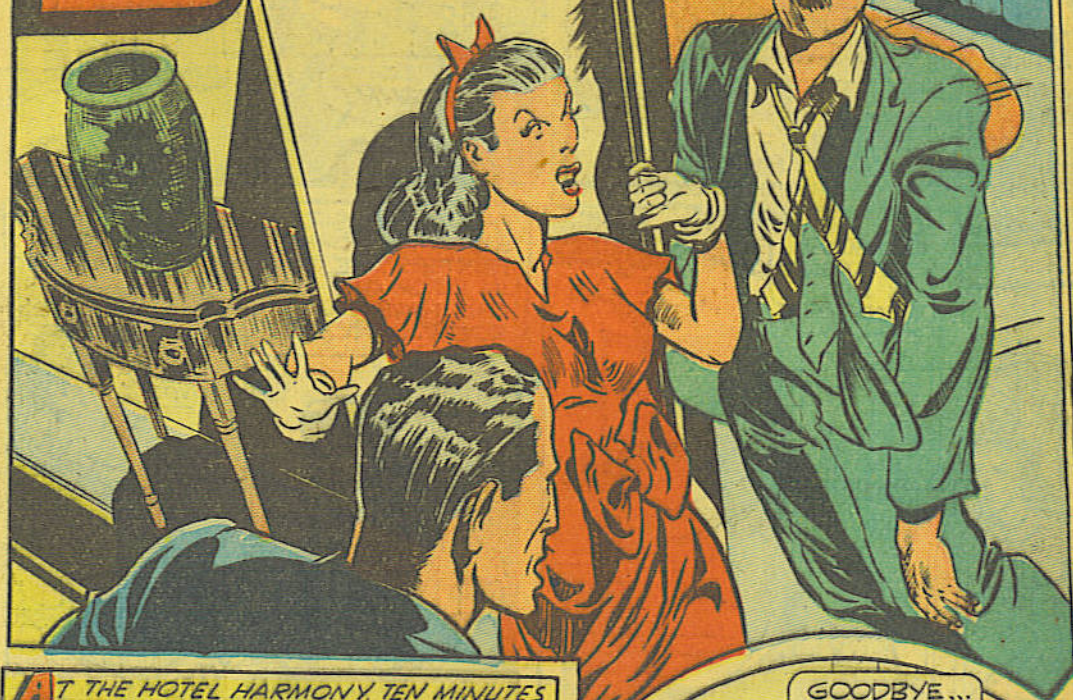


BERT SUE

And

There were no vacancies in the little hotel where Bert and Sue sought shelter... no vacancies because a corpse occupied one room! A cadaver without a face... and fingerprints! A body without a name—that screamed aloud to the two amateur sleuths to solve the riddle of...

The MAN NOBODY KNEW!



AT THE HOTEL HARMONY, TEN MINUTES PAST SEVEN... A WARM SPRING EVENING...

I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE AN EMPTY IN THE HOUSE, SIR!

WHY THAT'S ALL RIGHT! SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU...

HMMM...

SORRY, SIR!

GOODBYE... AND THANK YOU!





HEY!

ENJOY YOUR TRIP, DARLING?



ONE—
TWO—
THREE—

WELL, LOOKY THERE! ISN'T THAT LI'L HUNK OF MAN JUST TOO CUTE FOR WORDS?

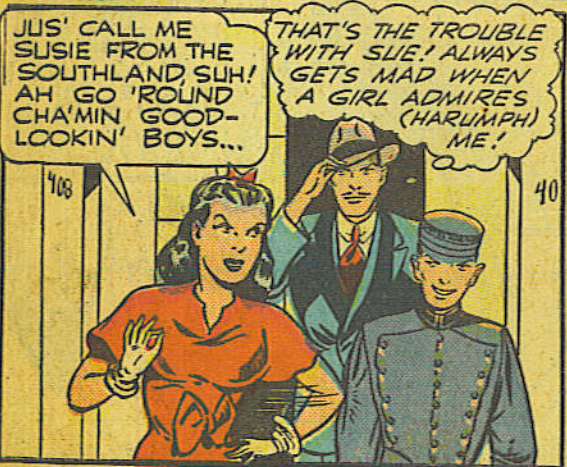


CUT THE COMEDY! YOU AREN'T A BIT FUNNY!



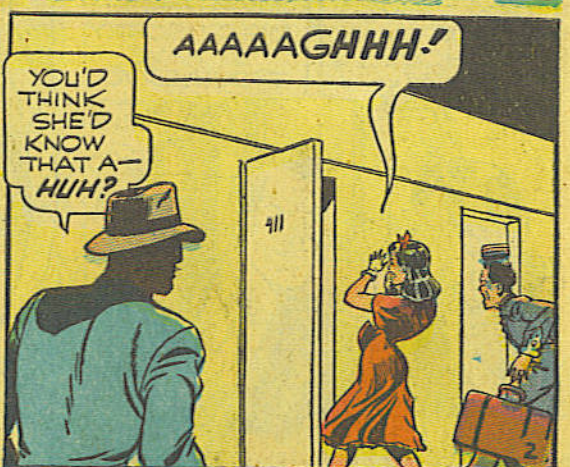
PARDON ME, SIR! WORD JUST CAME DOWN! THE PAINTERS ARE THROUGH IN ROOM 411! YOU CAN HAVE THAT ROOM ... **FRONT!**

THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU!



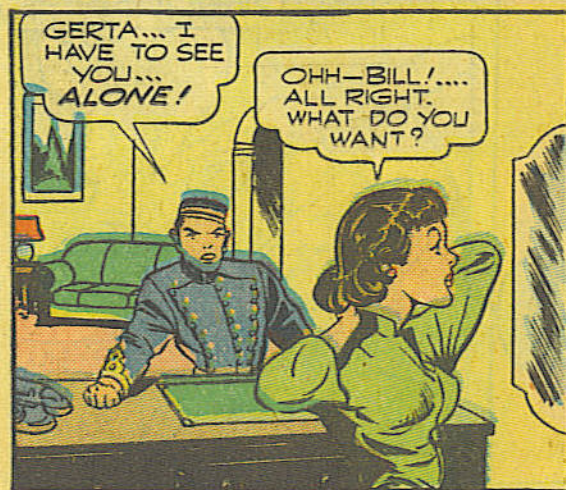
JUS' CALL ME SUSIE FROM THE SOUTHLAND SUH! AH GO 'ROUND LOOKIN' GOOD-CHAMIN BOYS...

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH SUE! ALWAYS GETS MAD WHEN A GIRL ADMIRES (HARUMPH) ME!



AAAAAGHHH!

YOU'D THINK SHE'D KNOW THAT A—
HUH?



UPSTAIRS...

OHHH...
IT'S YOU,
BERT!

STOP FLUTTER-
ING YOUR EYE-
LASHES! OF
COURSE IT'S
ME, SUE! WHO
ARE YOU EXPECTING
—THE BELLBOY?

IS-IS HE STILL
THERE? BERT...
WHAT CAN WE
DO? THAT
POOR MAN...

I'LL SEE THE
MANAGER! MAYBE
HE CAN THROW
SOME LIGHT
ON THIS!

THEN YOU
HAVE TO...

CERTAINLY
TAKES A LONG
TIME TO GET A
DRINK OF WATER!
WHERE'S THE
MANAGER?

THE BELLBOY—JIMMY—
JUST TOLD ME ALL ABOUT
THAT POOR MAN! OH,
THIS IS HORRIBLE!
WHAT WILL I DO?
THE MANAGER LEFT
A COUPLE OF HOURS
AGO!

THAT'S TOO BAD!
HMM... I'LL HAVE
TO NOTIFY THE
POLICE, OF
COURSE! MAY
I USE YOUR
TELEPHONE...?

MY GOODNESS, YES!
AND DICK CARNEY
THE HOUSE DETECTIVE
—MAYBE YOU OUGHT
TO TELL HIM, TOO!
I MEAN— HE
OUGHT TO KNOW,
SHOULDN'T HE?

HOUSE DETECTIVE?
GOOD IDEA! I'LL
DO THAT AS SOON
AS I'VE PHONED
THE POLICE!

IN THE HOTEL
DETECTIVE'S
ROOM...

MIND IF I
COME IN?
I JUST
KNOCKED BUT
YOU DIDN'T HEAR
ME! THERE'S A
DEAD MAN UP-
STAIRS—MURDERED!

GRESOL
FOR
DIRTY
HANDS

A-WHAT? DEAD MAN! HOW IN THE WORLD—? I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!



HMMM...!



HIS HEAD WAS SMASHED IN, AND HIS FINGERTIPS BURNED WITH ACID! A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT— TO HIDE HIS IDENTITY!



EASY ENOUGH TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS! WE'LL CHECK THE HOTEL REGISTER BOOK!



GULP! THE—THE REGISTER IS GONE! AND SOME OTHER PAPERS...SOMEONE MUST'VE **ROBBED** US, MR. CARNEY!



NONSENSE! WE'LL TAKE A LOOK IN THE HOTEL VAULT! MAYBE MR. BRENNER, THE MANAGER, PUT THEM AWAY FOR SAFEKEEPING!



BUT MY UNCLE, FRANK BRENNER, IS THE HOTEL MANAGER. HE WOULDN'T DO THAT! HE ALWAYS INSISTED THAT THE REGISTER BE KEPT RIGHT THERE...



OH? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BRENNER'S NIECE!

WE'LL LOOK IN THE VAULTS! THE BOOKS **MUST** BE THERE!



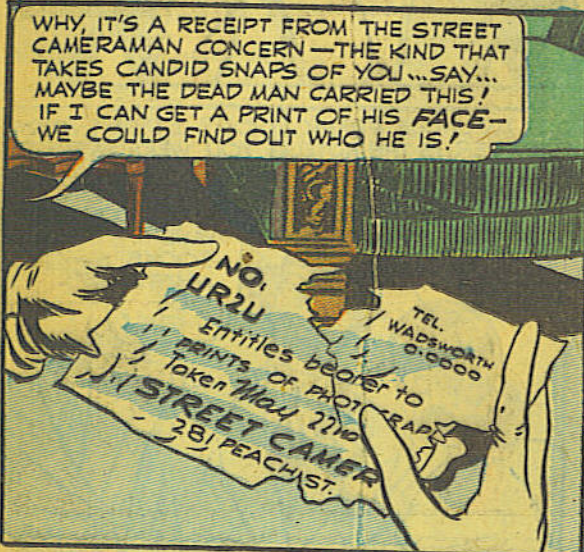
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY HERE! BEFORE UNCLE FRANK LEFT, HE QUARRELED WITH DICK! MAYBE ...MAYBE HE STOLE THOSE PAPERS HIMSELF AND—OH, BUT THAT'S TOO **TERRIBLE** TO THINK ABOUT!



IN THE MEANTIME...



HMM... NO LAUNDRY MARKS ON THE SHIRT... NO IDENTIFYING LABELS ON THIS COAT! WHO **IS** THIS CHARACTER, ANYHOW?



MEANWHILE... AT THE HOTEL...

WE'LL CHECK
IN HERE
FIRST
AND THEN...

HEY! LOOKS AS IF
A **CYCLONE**
STRUCK HERE!
TAKE A LOOK AT
THIS, WILL YOU!



THE REGISTRY BOOK IS GONE!
WOW! LOOK AT THIS FILE!
ABOUT THIRTY THOUSAND
DOLLARS' WORTH OF BONDS
AND MONEY HAS BEEN
STOLEN! IT BELONGED
TO EDGAR MACKLIN, ONE
OF OUR GUESTS!



HMMM... COULD BE
THIS GUEST DISCOVERED
SOMEONE RIFLING THE
VAULT, RAISED MERRY
NED ABOUT IT... AND...

SURE! AND
TO COVER
HIMSELF,
BRENNER
KILLED HIM!

SNAP!



BRENNER?
THE MANAGER?

SURE! HE'S THE ONLY
ONE WHO COULD ENTER
THIS VAULT! HE'S LEFT
THE HOTEL—PROBABLY
BEATING IT TO SOME
HIDEOUT! BETTER
NOTIFY THE POLICE
TO MAKE A SEARCH...



THE POLICE
ARE HERE IN
RESPONSE
TO YOUR
PHONE CALL!

THANKS, GERTA!
I'LL BE RIGHT
WITH THEM!



FRANK BRENNER!
THAT'S HIS NAME!
STOCKY MAN,
SLIGHTLY BALD!
WEARS EXPENSIVE
CLOTHES.

WE'LL PUT THROUGH
A "CHECK CALL"
ON HIM WITH ALL
BUS, TRAIN AND
AIRPLANE TER-
MINALS! WE'LL
GET HIM, ALL
RIGHT!



PERHAPS YOU CAN
LEARN MORE THAN
SUE AND I DID!
YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO LOCATE
SOME CLUES IN
THE ROOM ITSELF!

WE (GASP) BROUGHT
ALONG OUR CAMERA-
MAN! THEY'LL TAKE
PICTURES!

SUE, HONEY...
I'M BACK.
SUE!

DON'T TELL ME
ANYTHING'S HAPPENED
TO HER?



THIS MAY BE
MACKLIN! DON'T
RECOGNIZE THE
CLOTHES,
THOUGH!

THE HOMICIDE BUREAU
WILL FIND OUT WHO
HE IS! WATCH IT,
MISTER!

ISN'T LIKE SUE TO RUN OFF
WITHOUT LEAVING ME **SOME**
WORD! BETTER TAKE A
LOOK AROUND THE HOTEL!



SHE SIMPLY
DISAPPEARED!
I'LL WAIT AN HOUR—
AND KEEP MY FINGERS
CROSSED!

BETTER CHECK WITH
CARNEY AND SEE WHAT
THE POLICE HAVE DIS-
COVERED ABOUT THAT
MURDERED MAN—IF
ANYTHING!



MEANWHILE, THE POLICE THROW A DRAGNET ACROSS THE ENTIRE CITY...



JIM, I JUST HEARD THAT RADIO BROADCAST FLASH ABOUT A FRANK BRENNER. A MAN BY THAT NAME SIGNED IN FOR A FLIGHT TO CHICAGO AT 3:23!



THAT MUST BE HIM, ALL RIGHT! GIVES HIS ADDRESS AS THE HOTEL HARMONY!

LEAVING ADDRESS
TAKE ONE



AT THAT MOMENT, SUE RETURNS TO THE HOTEL...

WAIT UNTIL I SHOW BERT WHAT I LEARNED! HE'LL BE DELIGHTED!



OH, MY GOODNESS!



IT ISN'T ENOUGH YOU FLIRT WITH MY HUSBAND! NOW YOU AIM GUNS AT HIM!

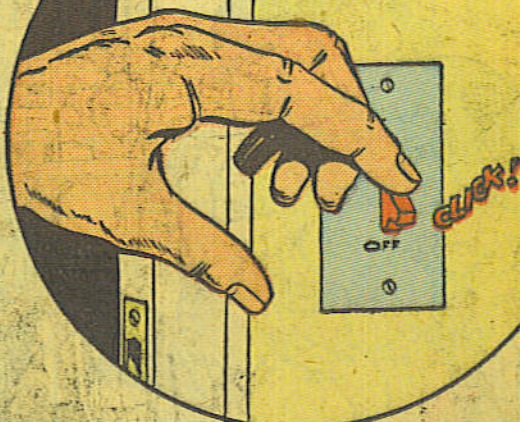
OHHHHHH!



I'LL MAKE YOU
PAY FOR ALL
THIS TROUBLE,
YOUNG LADY!

I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES
OUT! THIS IS ALL YOUR
FAULT... YOU AND YOUR
HUSBAND...!

SUDDENLY...



HEY! LET
ME UP! YOU
GOT THE
WRONG GUY!

A FRENZIED MOMENT,
A SCREAM, A
STRUGGLE IN THE
BLACKNESS OF THE
UNLIGHTED ROOM...
AND WHEN THE
LIGHTS GO ON...

WHO TURNED
OFF THE
LIGHTS?

GERTA GOT
AWAY—!

I DUNNO WHO TURNED 'EM OFF!
I JUST TURNED 'EM ON! WE
GOT A CALL FROM HEADQUARTERS.
FRANK BRENNER REGISTERED WITH
CENTURY AIR LINES AT 3.23 THIS
AFTERNOON FOR A
FLIGHT TO CHICAGO!

THAT'S WHAT *YOU*
THINK! HE DID
NOTHING OF
THE KIND!

TAKE A
LOOK AT
THAT!

OH-OH! THIS CONFIRMS
THE SUSPICIONS I'VE
HAD ALL ALONG! NOW
WE KNOW WHO THE DEAD
MAN IS—AND WHO
KILLED HIM!

COME ON!
WE CAN
GET HIM!

RIGHT
WITH YOU,
DARLING!

SAY, WHAT COOKS
HERE? LEMME SEE
THAT PICTURE!
HEYYYY!



YOU'RE
THE MAN
WE WANT,
CARNEY!

YOU KILLED THE MAN
INSIDE... HAMMERED
HIS HEAD... ACID-
DIPPED HIS
FINGERPRINTS!



I FIRST SUSPECTED HIM WHEN HE USED
GRESOLVENT TO WASH HIS HANDS!
NO HOTEL DETECTIVE DOES WORK RE-
QUIRING THAT INSTEAD OF SOAP! WHY DID
HE USE IT? BECAUSE HE HAD
FRESH PAINT ON HIS HANDS!
HE HAD TO WASH IT OFF!

THE PAINT HE
GOT ON WHEN
HE TOUCHED
THE WALL OF
THE FRESHLY-
PAINTED
ROOM!



HE TOLD ME ONLY THE
HOTEL MANAGER COULD GET
INTO THE VAULT—YET HE
HIMSELF LET ME IN!
HE ROBBED THE
VAULT... WAS DIS-
COVERED BY FRANK
BRENNER! THEN HE
HAD TO KILL HIM TO
SAVE HIMSELF A
PRISON STRETCH!



HE WENT AND SIGNED
BRENNER'S NAME TO
THE PLANE COMPANY
BOOK! HE HAD TO DO
THAT—BECAUSE
BRENNER IS THE
DEAD MAN! HE TRIED
TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT
BRENNER HAD RUN
AWAY!



WE OVERHEARD WHAT
YOU SAID, MISS SUE.
I FOUND MR. BRENNER'S
GUN IN 411... TOOK IT
AND GAVE IT TO GERTA...
WE WERE AFRAID MR.
BRENNER MIGHT BE
SUSPECTED...!

I—I GUESS I
WAS FOOLISH!
I—LOST MY
HEAD. I'M
SORRY!



YOU SEE, I HEARD UNCLE FRANK AND CARNEY
QUARRELING! I WAS AFRAID CARNEY MIGHT
PULL THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES! I HAD TO
DO SOMETHING DESPERATE TO—ATTRACT
YOUR ATTENTION!

NOT **THAT** DESPERATE,
HONEY. THERE WAS
ENOUGH KILLING
AROUND HERE
TODAY WITHOUT
ADDING TO THE
TOTAL!



AND WE
STILL DON'T
HAVE A
ROOM!

LET'S GO HOME,
DARLING... BEFORE
WE WALK INTO ANOTHER
HOTEL AND SOMEBODY
ELSE HEAVES A CORPSE
AT US...



MACK MARTIN

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR



HE'S KNOWN AS A PRIVATE "EYE" TO THE TRADE, BUT HIS CASES GENERALLY LEAD TO A PUBLIC MURDER WHERE EVERYBODY AND HIS BROTHER TRIES TO GET IN THE ACT, USING MACK MARTIN AS THE STAR ATTRACTION FOR A HAIL OF LEAD BY HOT TRIGGER FINGERS THAT SPELL OUT A NEW HAIR-RAISING ESCAPE LIKE

THE CASE OF THE PLANNED ACCIDENT

ALL IS QUIET IN MACK MARTIN'S OFFICE
TOO QUIET...

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING HAS COME TO A DEAD END, EH, GERTIE? HEY... THAT DRESS DOES THINGS FOR YOU! IS IT NEW?

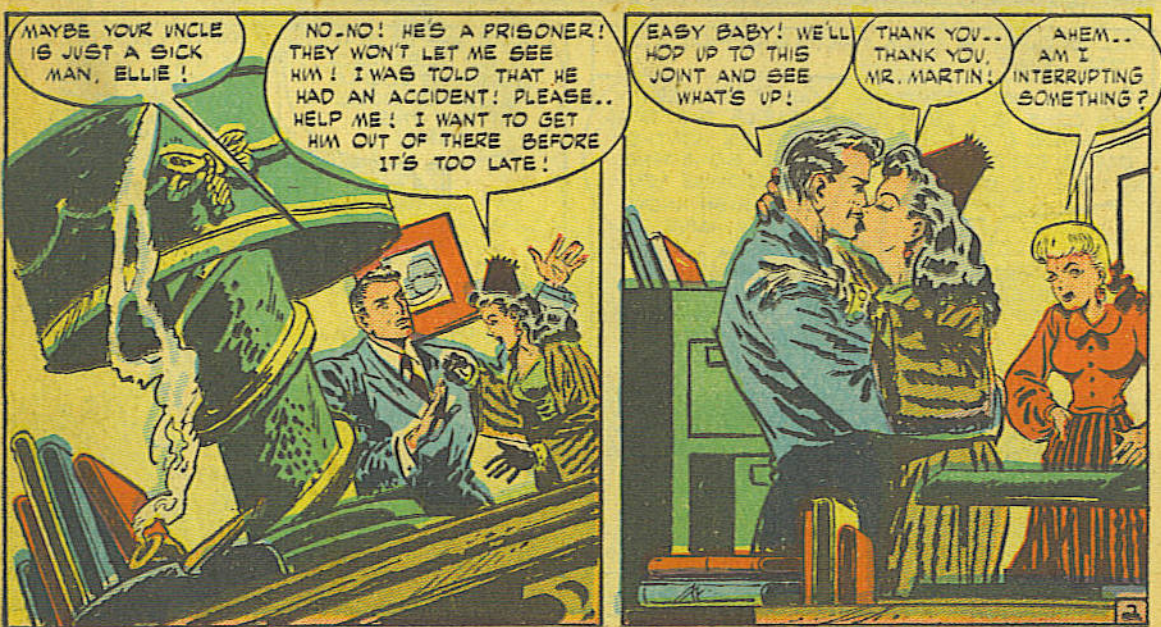
NEW? I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS THING FOR SIX MONTHS! WHEN SOMETHING IS COOKING YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE!



THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD IT'S SO QUIET MACK... EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT GOING TO GET PAID THIS WEEK!

AWWW - GERTIE... YOU KNOW I CARRY YOU WITH ME! WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU IN THE OFFICE! YOU'RE MY GIRL, FRIDAY!





LOOKS LIKE I GOT ME A JOB, GERTIE! MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO GET PAID THIS WEEK! TAKE THAT LOOK OFF YOUR FACE! YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED!

YOU'RE JUST IRRESISTIBLE, MACK!



AT DR. CRAVEN'S SANATORIUM...

THIS IS IT, MR. MARTIN!

WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS NOW, HONEY. YOU CAN CALL ME MACK! NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT COOKS! DON'T LET ON WHO I AM.



I'M BACK AGAIN, DR. CRAVEN... AND I INSIST ON SEEING MY UNCLE!

WHY OF COURSE, MY DEAR! I REPRIMAND MY HELP FOR TURNING YOU AWAY LAST TIME, BUT THEY THOUGHT THAT IN VIEW OF HIS ACCIDENT...! TCH, TCH... MOST UNFORTUNATE!



NURSE... TAKE THESE PEOPLE TO DR CHASES ROOM!

MMMM... I'LL BE GLAD TO!



UNCLE! WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ELEANOR! THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE COME! WHO IS THAT MAN?



HE'S A-A-FRIEND, UNCLE! EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

I MUST SPEAK TO YOU ALONE!

THAT'S YOUR EXIT CUE, NURSE! TA, TA!



THEY'RE HOLDING ME HERE AGAINST MY WILL! THREE DAYS AGO I HAD TO SIGN MY PAPERS TO GET MY RELEASE! I DID SIGN... AND SINCE THEN I'VE HAD ONE NARROW ESCAPE AFTER ANOTHER!

BUT YOUR FOOT...



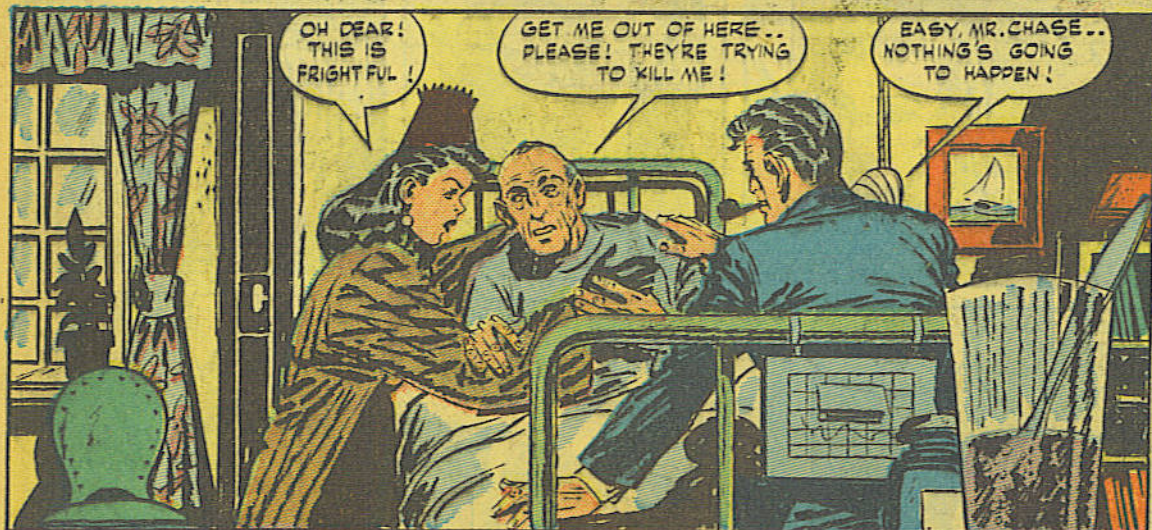
AFTER SIGNING THE PAPERS THEY SAID I COULD LEAVE! GOING DOWN THE STEPS I TRIPPED OVER A THIN WIRE WHICH HAD BEEN STRETCHED ACROSS THE LANDING! BY GRABBING THE BANNISTER I BROKE THE FALL AND SAVED MYSELF! BUT THEY PURPOSELY PUT THE WIRE THERE... I KNOW IT!



OH DEAR! THIS IS FRIGHTFUL!

GET ME OUT OF HERE... PLEASE! THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME!

EASY, MR. CHASE... NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN!



OH, MR. MARTIN! DR. CRAVEN WANTS TO SEE YOU!

COMING BABY!

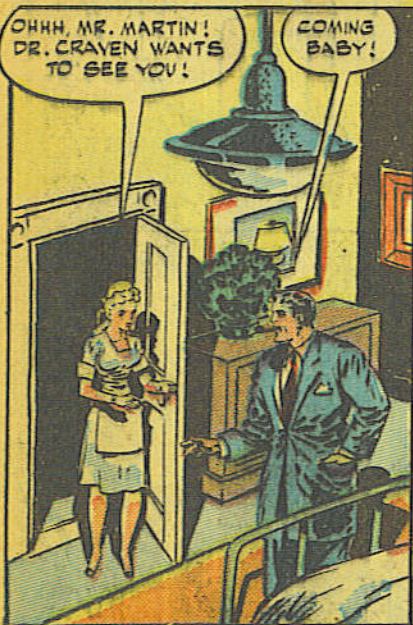
ARE YOU HAPPY, NURSE?

I WASN'T UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP, HANDSOME!

AHHH! THERE YOU ARE!

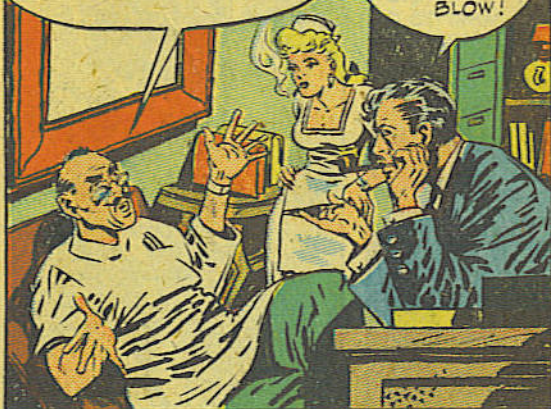
I SUPPOSE POOR MR. CHASE TOLD YOU HIS FAVORITE STORY, EH? HE THINKS WE'RE TRYING TO KILL HIM, POOR SOUL! BUT HE'S SUFFERING FROM A CASE OF PARANOIA... BELIEVES EVERYBODY IS PERSECUTING HIM! COULD BE DANGEROUS YOU KNOW! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO WATCH HIM!

OH, ONE OF THOSE CASES, EH?



HOWEVER, MR. CHASE IS BECOMING
SOMETHING OF A HEADACHE TO
US, SO YOU'D BE DOING US A
FAVOR BY REMOVING HIM! HIS
NIECE HAS ALL SORTS OF
IDEAS, YOU KNOW!

I GUESS THAT
SCREWY
BUSINESS
RUNS IN THE
FAMILY! I
THINK I'LL
BLOW!



SEE THIS GENTLEMAN
OUT, NURSE!

YES, DR.
CRAVEN!



NOW HONEY, SUPPOSE YOU
TELL ME HOW YOU KNEW
I WAS MACK MARTIN! YOU
GAVE YOURSELF AWAY WHEN
YOU CALLED ME BY NAME
IN THE HOSPITAL
ROOM!

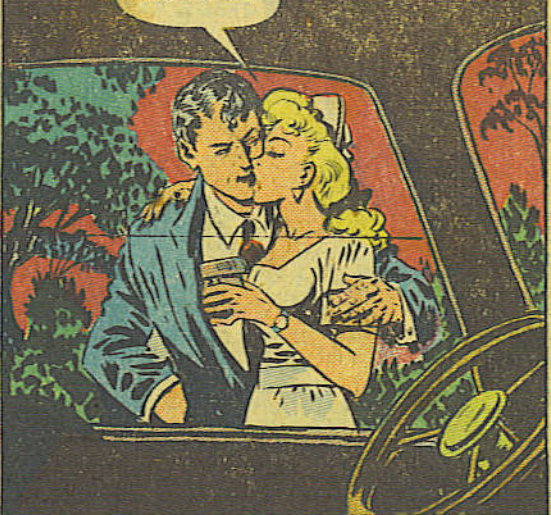
ER...ER...I...
I...I DID?



WHY EVERYBODY KNOWS MACK MARTIN,
THE PRIVATE "EYE"! AND I ALWAYS
WANTED TO MEET YOU!



MMMMM!



THEY DIDN'T OVER-
RATE YOU AS A
CHARM BOY, MACK!

AND THEY DIDN'T
TEACH YOU TO KISS
LIKE THAT IN SCHOOL!



A REAL LITTLE CUTIE, THAT BLONDE BOMBSHELL! I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WIND AFTER ALL! CRAVEN AND NURSIE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF SMOOTH PLAYMATES WHO WERE A LITTLE TOO ANXIOUS TO GET ME OUT OF HERE!



MACK CAUTIOUSLY MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO THE WINDOW OF DR. CRAVEN.

THE DAME IS TAKING THE OLD BOY OUT IN A WHEEL CHAIR, DOC!

GOOD! YOU BOYS KNOW WHAT TO DO! MAKE SURE IT LOOKS GOOD!



HURRY, ELEANOR! HURRY.. BEFORE THEY SEE US!

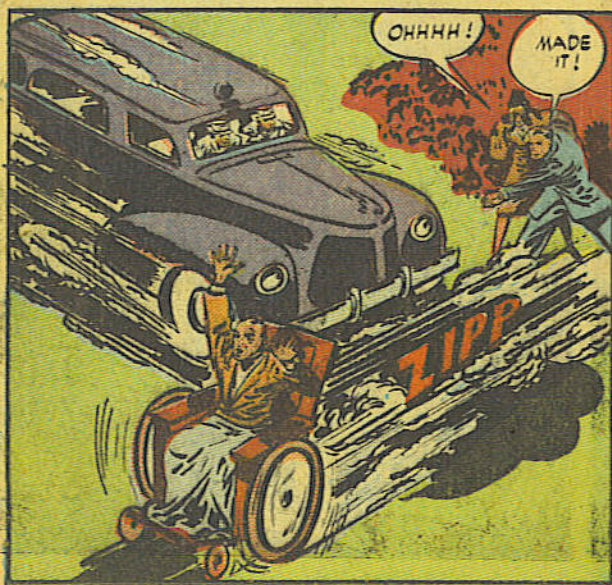
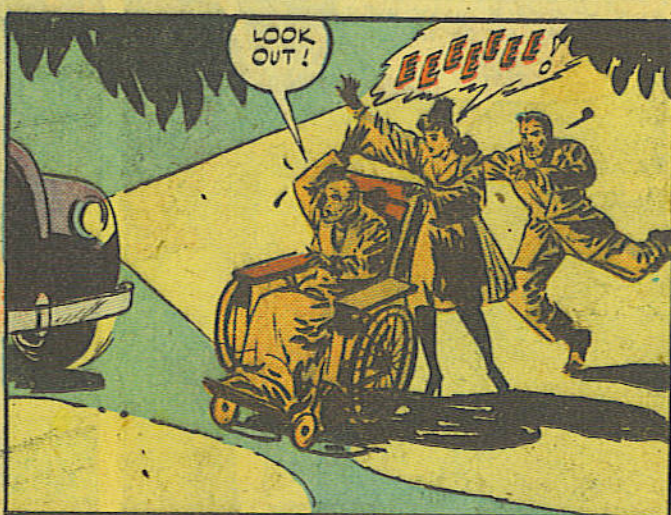
I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN, UNCLE!



OH, OH... HERE COMES THE ACCIDENT!



LOOK OUT!



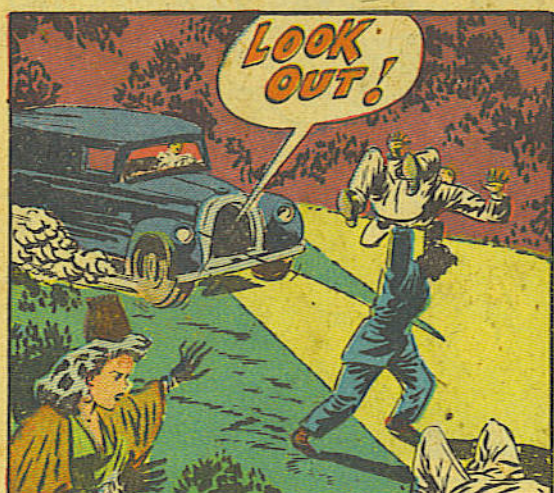
OHhhh!

MADE IT!

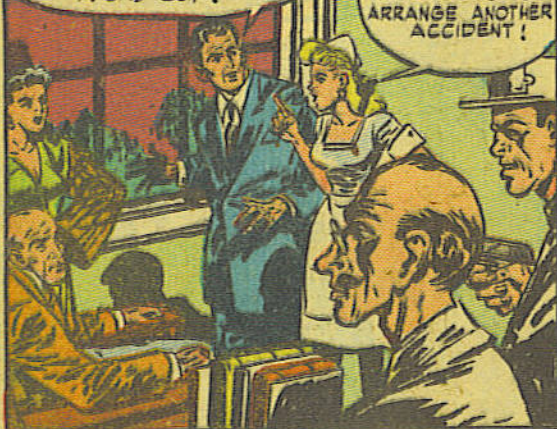
IT'S THAT SMART PUNK! GET HIM.. FAST!

STAND BY! THESE RATS MEAN BUSINESS!



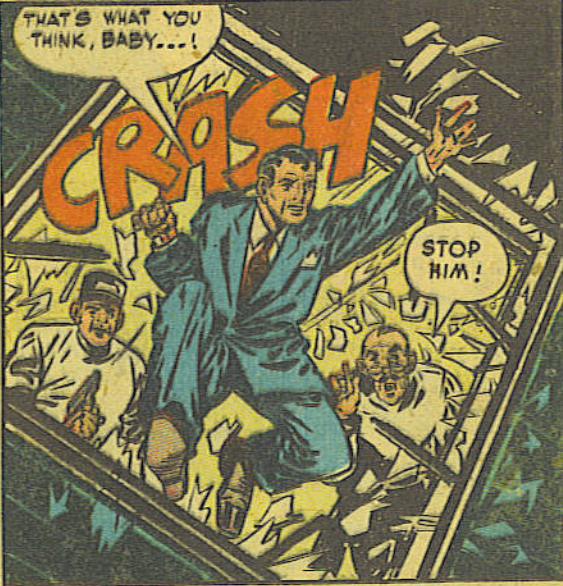


YOU CLUCKS ARE PRETTY OBVIOUS
WITH YOUR MURDER BUSINESS! .
SIC THE BLONDE ON ME TO GET
ME OUT OF THE PICTURE! YOU
OUGHT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT
CALLING ME BY MY NAME!
A BAD SLIP!



SO WHAT,
BRIGHT BOY,
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO LIVE
TO TALK ABOUT
IT... AND THEN
WE'RE GOING TO
ARRANGE ANOTHER
ACCIDENT!

THAT'S WHAT YOU
THINK, BABY...!



DO YOU SEE
HIM? SHOOT!
DON'T LET
HIM...!

HERE I
AM, SONNY!



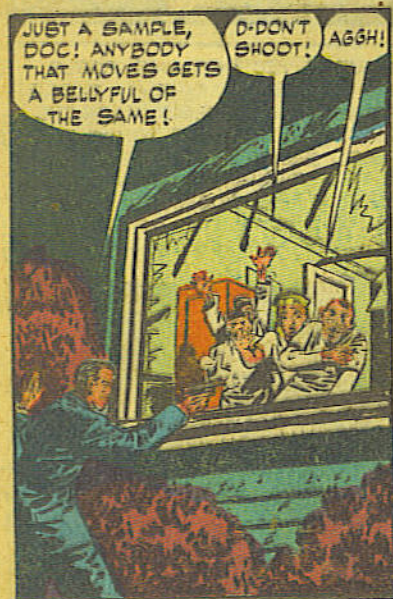
RELAX! I GOTTA
BORROW THAT ROD
OF YOURS!



JUST A SAMPLE,
DOC! ANYBODY
THAT MOVES GETS
A BELLYFUL OF
THE SAME!

D-DON'T
SHOOT!

AGGH!



THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED
AND QUICKLY TAKE OVER...

YOUR TROUBLES
ARE OVER, HONEY,
THE COPS WILL
TAKE CARE OF
THOSE
CHARACTERS!

WE OWE
EVERYTHING
TO YOU, MR.
MARTIN!
YOU'RE
GRAND!



HMMMM...
THIS IS
WHERE I
CAME IN!
WHAT DID
YOU WANT
ME FOR,
MACK?

HI GERTIE! I JUST
CALLED TO TELL YOU I
WONT BE BACK IN THE
OFFICE! SWEETIE PIE
AND ME ARE GOING OUT
FOR A LITTLE
CELEBRATION!



HURRY-UP HARRIGAN

POLICE
REPORTER



A man can only die once... but nobody wants to die if he can help it... not even a professional killer who has the tables turned and finds himself on the spot with **Hurry-Up Harrigan**, the ace reporter, to keep him company in a new headline hit that could be called... **'A ONE WAY RIDE!'**

THE PRESS ROOM AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

"...SO THE COPS PICK UP ROBB, THE UNDERWORLD BOSS, TO SEE IF HE'LL CONFESS TO SENDING HIS HOODS OUT TO PLUG INSPECTOR CLAYTON FOR SMASHING RACKETS. WHAT A LAUGH!

BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS HIS TRIGGER MAN, FENNER, BUMPED THE INSPECTOR! ROBB'S GOT A PERFECT ALIBI... AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE FENNER IS... SO WE SIT AROUND WAITING!

YATATA-YATTATA! ALL I HEAR AROUND HERE IS PLENTY OF WIND!



I NEED SOME DIVERSION AND A CUTE LITTLE CHICK WOULD BE JUST THE THING! AHH... A GIRL... A FEMALE ...!

... AND WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, HARRIGAN?

YOU! FAUGH—!



WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

NOW TAKE IT EASY, MABEL—I WAS ONLY KIDDING!



HEY, FELLAS ... THIS LADY IS WRITING AN ARTICLE ON HOW YOU POLICE REPORTERS WORK! SHE WANTS SOME INFO!

WELL—L—L ... SHOOT HER IN!



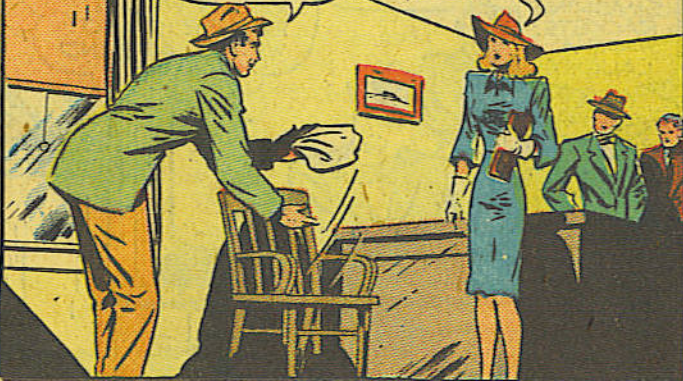
HARRIGAN'S THE NAME, HONEY! IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING... I GOT ALL THE ANSWERS!

I'M YOUR MAN, CUTIE! STAY AWAY FROM THAT WOLF!



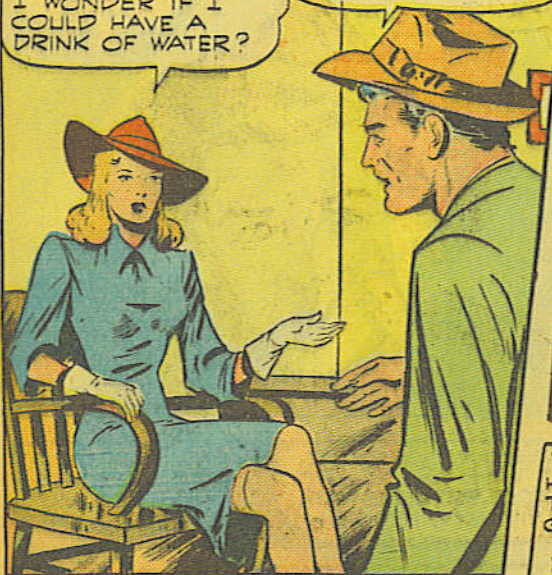
NOW YOU SIT RIGHT THERE AND TELL PAPA WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW! WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

ER... IT'S JULIE ? THOMPSON, MR. HARRIGAN! THANK YOU SO MUCH!



WELL...I...I'M SORT OF FLUSTERED! I... I WONDER IF I COULD HAVE A DRINK OF WATER?

STAND BACK...GIVE HER ROOM! WATER?



HERE I AM WITH A BOTTLE OF COKE...HEY! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?



"TAKE YOUR TIME HARRIGAN! WE'RE TAKING THE LITTLE GIRL OUT FOR SOME REAL REFRESHMENT! HA! HA!" WHY, THE HEELS! I'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!



WHAT A BREAK! I FIND MYSELF A CUTE TRICK AND THOSE MONKEYS HAVE TO HORN IN...!



THE COPS! I WANNA SEE THE COPS! I'M READY TO "SING!"



HUH?



IT... IT'S FENNER!

DON'T LET 'EM GET ME! THE BIG BOY HAS PUT ME ON THE SPOT! I CROAKED DE INSPECTOR LIKE HE TELLS ME...AND NOW HE WANTS TO BUMP ME! WHERE'S THE COPS?



I'LL CONFESS...
I'LL TALK! I
DID THE JOB!
BUT ROBB
GAVE ME OR-
DERS! NOW HE
WANTS TO KILL
ME!

IF I CAN
GET THIS GUY
WHERE HE CAN
CONFESS TO THE
PAPER! WHAT
A STORY!

EASY,
FENNER!
I'LL HELP
YOU!

THEY'RE
COMING
BACK!

GET IN THERE,
FENNER... AND
KEEP QUIET!

I HEAR
SOMEBODY
COMING!

PUT
THOSE
CLOTHES ON!
DISGUISE YOUR-
SELF AS A
CLEANING
WOMAN!

I'LL DO
WHAT YOU SAY...
BUT DON'T LET
'EM KILL ME!

HI, HARRIGAN! SORRY WE
DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT
FOR YOU... BUT JULIE WAS
VERY THIRSTY! HEH, HEH!

NO HARD
FEELINGS,
FELLAS!

I KNOW YOU
MUST THINK I'M
VERY RUDE, MR.
HARRIGAN, BUT
THE BOYS IN-
SISTED! I DIDN'T
WANT TO LEAVE!

FORGET IT, JULIE!
IT'S A GOOD THING
SOMEBODY WAS
AROUND HERE! ONE
OF THE CLEANING
WOMEN GOT VERY
SICK AND I HAD
TO TAKE CARE OF
HER!

WHAT A NOBLE-
SOUL! WHERE
IS SHE,
HARRIGAN?

I PUT HER IN THE
CLOSET! I FIGURED
IT'D BE A NICE PLACE
FOR HER TO REST!

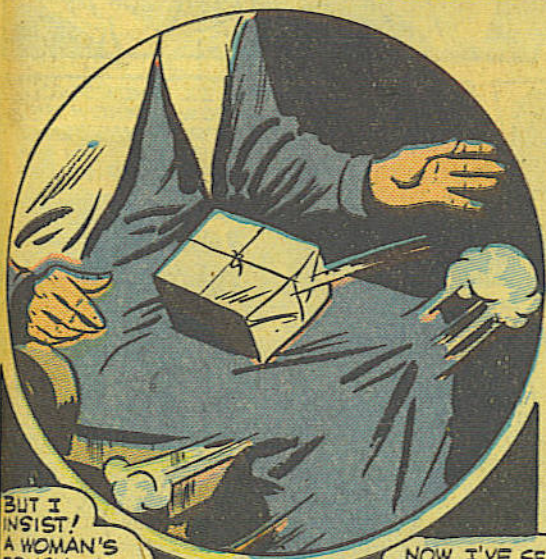
THE
CLOSET?

FEELING BETTER?
MAYBE YOU BETTER
COME OUT HERE
AND SIT DOWN!

OKAY, GRANDMA! I'LL
TAKE YOU HOME NOW!
GET YOUR STUFF
TOGETHER!

IS
THIS
YOURS?

HEY-THAT'S
MY
LUNCH!



I THINK I'LL GO
ALONG AND GIVE
YOU A HAND,
MR. HARRIGAN!

FORGET IT HONEY! I
CAN TAKE CARE OF
HER MYSELF!



BUT I
INSIST!
A WOMAN'S
TOUCH, YOU
KNOW!

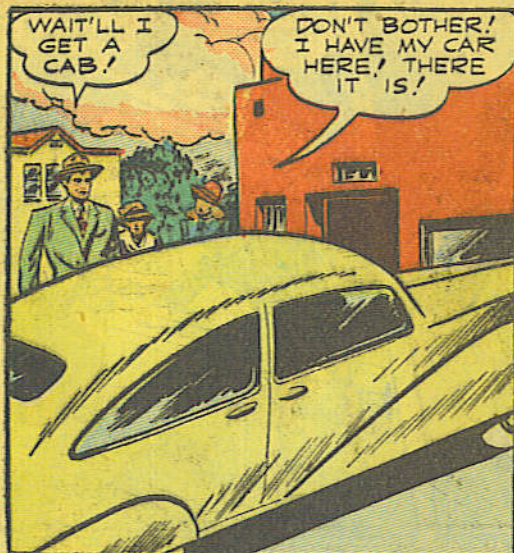
B-BUT...!

NOW I'VE SEEN
EVERYTHING!
HARRIGAN
TRYING TO
GET RID OF A
DISH LIKE THAT
TO TAKE GRAND-
MA HOME!

WELL—OKAY,
JULIE! LET'S
GET GOING!

THERE'S SOMETHING
SCREWY ABOUT ALL
THIS! I WISH I
KNEW WHAT!



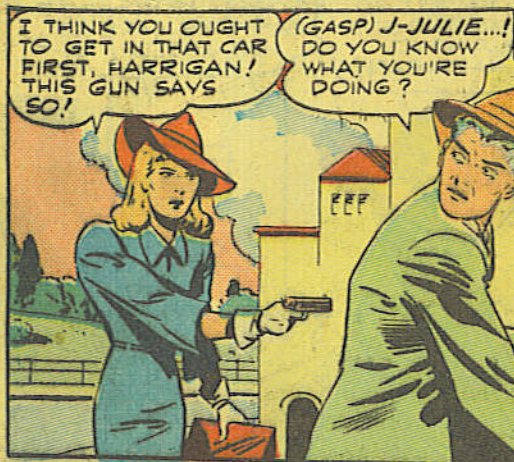
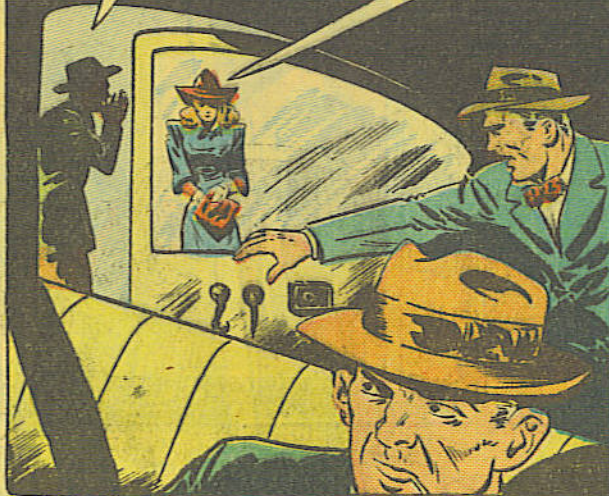


WAIT'LL I
GET A
CAB!

DON'T BOTHER!
I HAVE MY CAR
HERE! THERE
IT IS!

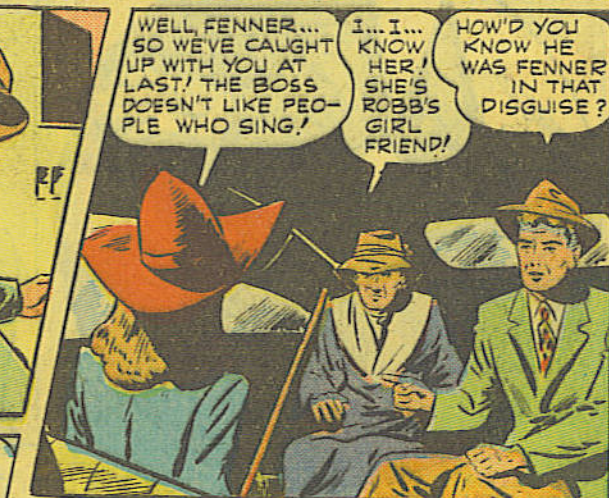
NO, JULIE! I GOTTA
GET HIM... HER... TO
MY NEWSPAPER
OFFICE!

HMMM...HOW
INTERESTING!



I THINK YOU OUGHT
TO GET IN THAT CAR
FIRST, HARRIGAN!
THIS GUN SAYS
SO!

(GASP) J-JULIE...!
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING?



WELL, FENNER...
SO WE'VE CAUGHT
UP WITH YOU AT
LAST! THE BOSS
DOESN'T LIKE PEOP-
LE WHO SING!

I...I...
KNOW
HER! SHE'S
ROBB'S GIRL
FRIEND!

HOW'D YOU
KNOW HE
WAS FENNER
IN THAT
DISGUISE?



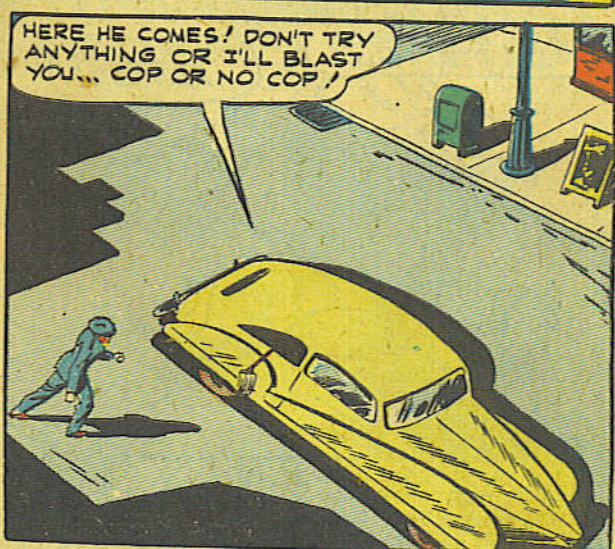
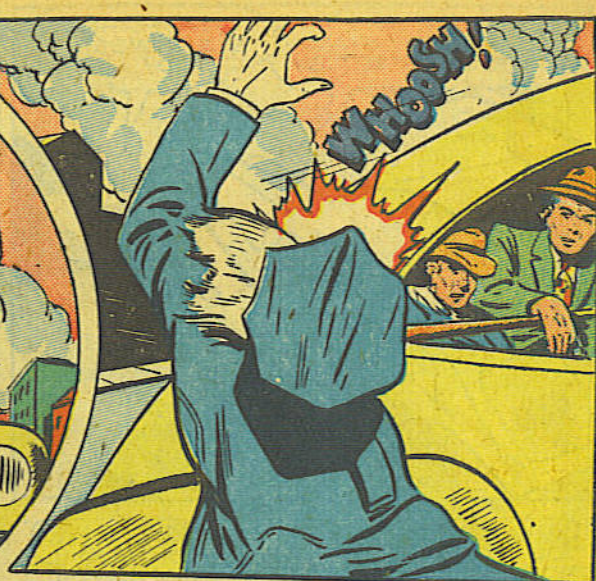
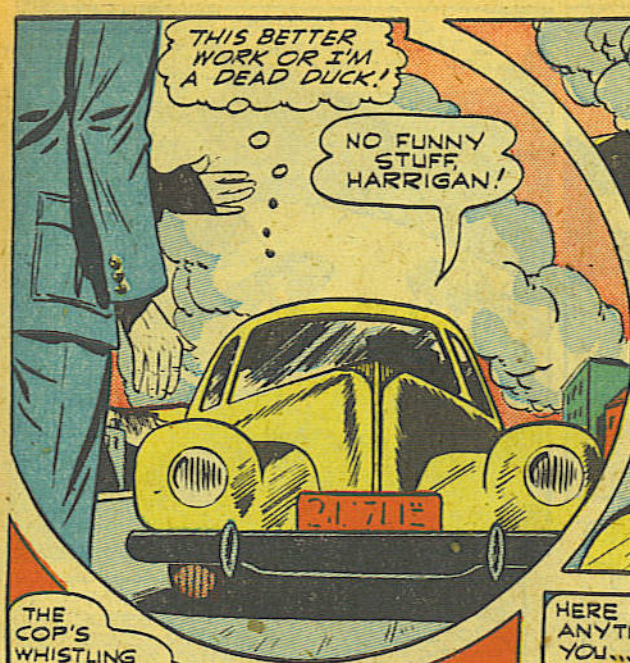
CATCHING THAT BOY IN
HIS LAP GAVE HIM AWAY!
WHEN A WOMAN WANTS
TO CATCH SOMETHING
THAT WAY, SHE SPREADS
HER SKIRT OUT! HE
BROUGHT HIS LEGS TO-
GETHER AS MEN DO!

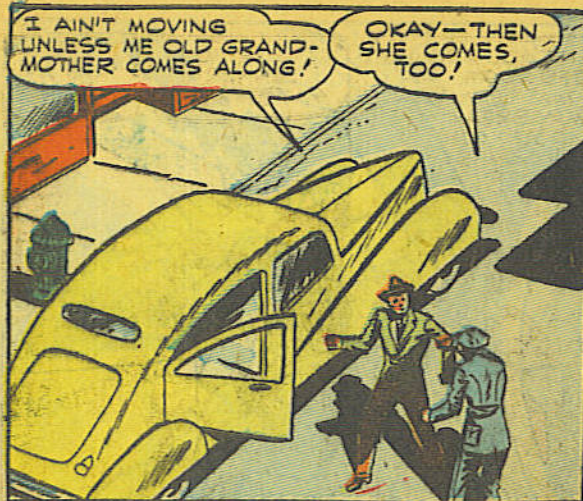
TH-THEY'RE
GOING TO
KILL ME...!



THAT'S RIGHT, FENNER!
WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU
-AND BRIGHT BOY HERE!
HE WAS TOO CUTE FOR
HIS OWN GOOD!

M-ME?





I AIN'T MOVING
UNLESS ME OLD GRAND-
MOTHER COMES ALONG!

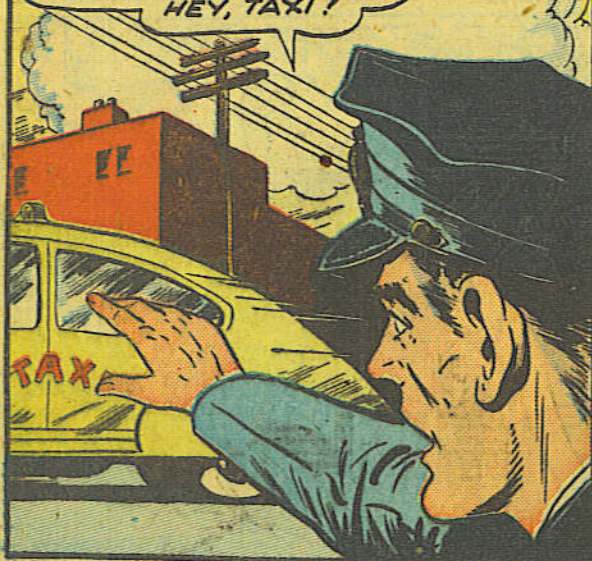
OKAY—THEN
SHE COMES,
TOO!

LISTEN, OFFICER—THAT BUSINESS I GAVE
YOU WAS AN ACT TO GET AWAY FROM
ROBB'S GANG WHO HAD IDEAS ABOUT
KILLING ME! I'M HARRIGAN OF THE
BLADE, AND I KNOW
WHERE FENNER IS!

DID YOU SAY
FENNER?



I'LL TAKE YOU THERE...OR
ANYPLACE, HARRIGAN... BUT
THIS BUSINESS OF FENNER
BETTER BE ON THE LEVEL!
HEY, TAXI!



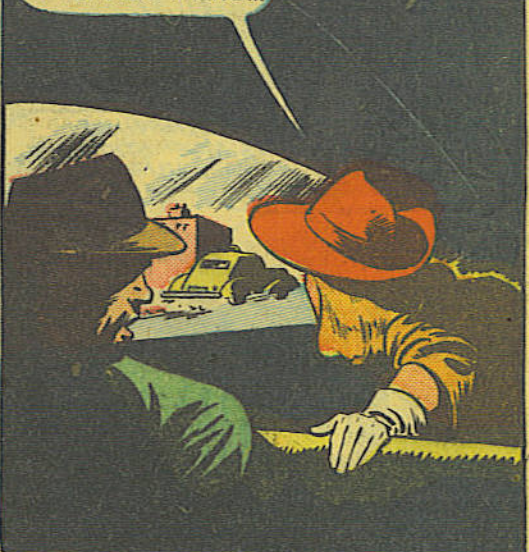
GET GOING BEFORE
I TAKE THE REST
OF YOU IN!

THAT'S RIGHT! FENNER IS AT MY
OFFICE! GIVE ME A POLICE ESCORT
AND I'LL PUT HIM RIGHT IN YOUR
HANDS! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'LL
MEAN FOR YOU!

DO I—AND
HOW! THE
WHOLE FORCE
IS OUT LOOK-
ING FOR HIM!



HE GOT THE COP TO TAKE HIM DOWN
TO THE NEWSPAPER! YOU FOOLS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU
SHOOT WHEN YOU
HAD THE CHANCE!
IF FENNER TALKS...



MINUTES LATER AT THE DAILY BLADE...

OKAY HARRIGAN! I KEPT MY PART OF THE BARGAIN! WHERE'S FENNER?

STAY RIGHT HERE, OFFICER! I'LL HAVE HIM FOR YOU IN A FEW MINUTES!

HARRIGAN!



WHY AREN'T YOU DOWN IN THE PRESS ROOM, YOU CLUCK! THAT FENNER STORY MAY BREAK WIDE OPEN AND YOU COME IN HERE WITH SOMEBODY'S GRANDMOTHER! AND WHAT'S THAT JOHN LAW DOING OUT THERE?

STOP YOUR PRESSES! I GOT A BOMB-SHELL FOR YOU!



I GIVE YOU FENNER—IN PERSON!

FEN...! YIPES!



STOP THE PRESSES! STOP THEM! CLEAR THE FIRST THREE COLUMNS! STAND BY!

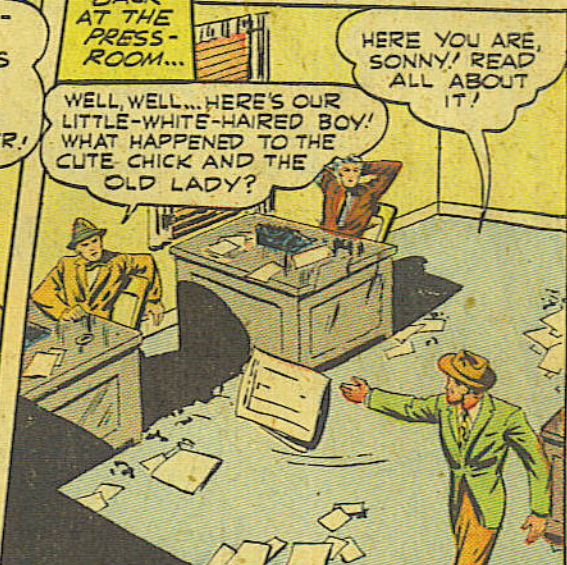
HE'S GOING TO CONFESS TO THE DAILY BLADE AND TELL US HOW HE KILLED INSPECTOR CLAYTON ON ROBB'S ORDERS! START TALKING, FENNER!



LATER... BACK AT THE PRESS-ROOM...

WELL, WELL... HERE'S OUR LITTLE WHITE-HAIRED BOY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUTE CHICK AND THE OLD LADY?

HERE YOU ARE, SONNY! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



HE SNEAKED FENNER OUT FROM UNDER OUR NOSE! MURDER HIM!

HEH, HEH! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LET A CHICK LIKE JULIE PUT YOU INTO A TAILSPIN INSTEAD OF TENDING TO BUSINESS LIKE ME!



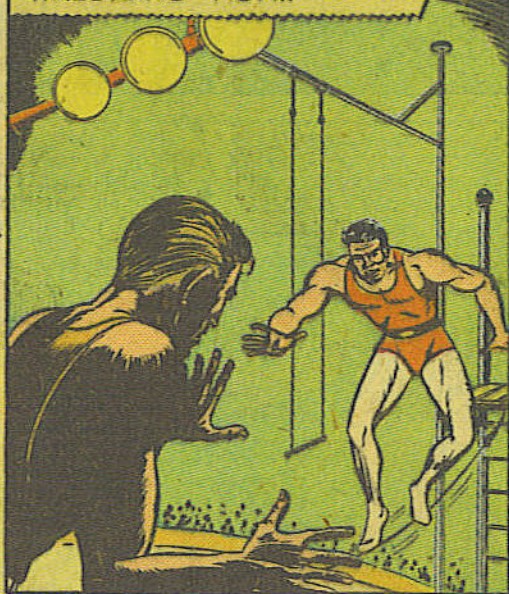
MR. RISK

High in the air above gasping thousands in the Big Tent, the aerial artists challenge Death, avoiding his clutching, boney fingers by sheer muscle and ice-cold nerve! But—when a human fiend tempts the Man With the Scythe into the breach steps *MR. RISK*, who stakes his very life on his ability to solve the riddle of the circus curse... and defeat—

"THE MAN WHO FED DEATH"



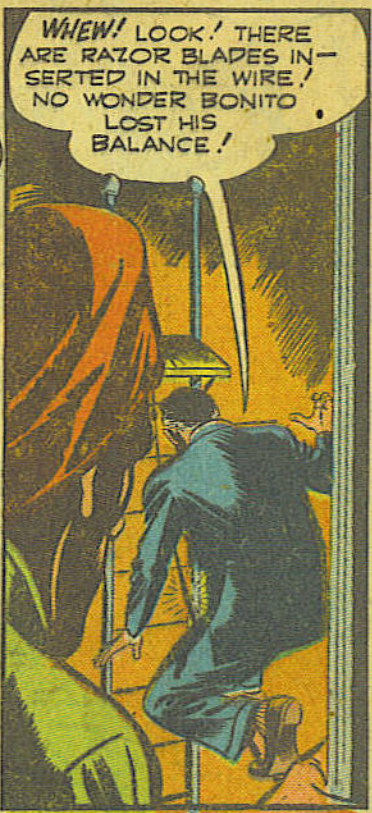
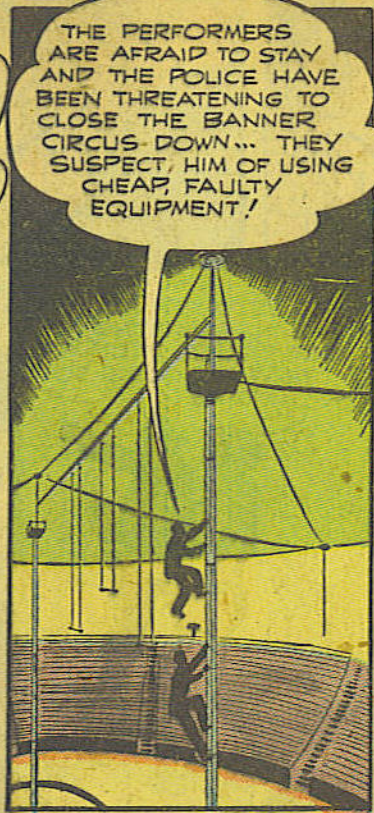
MADRID AND BONITO, TIGHTROPE SPECIALISTS ARE PERFORMING THEIR DIFFICULT HIGHWIRE WRESTLING ACT...



SUDDENLY, TWO FEET SLIP CLEAR OF THE WIRE...



FRANCESCO—
I'M FALLING!

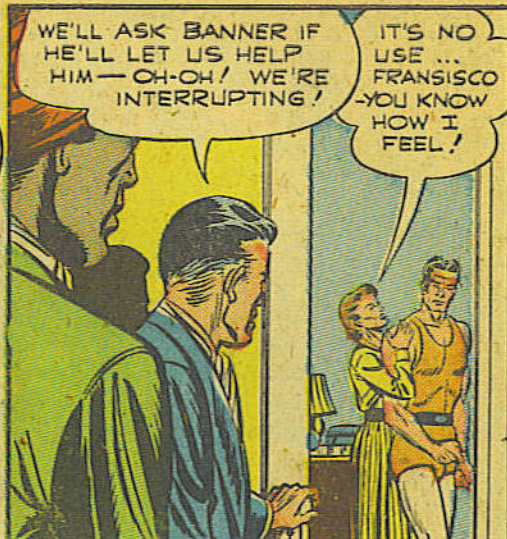


IN THE GLOOMY DRESSING ROOM OF THE DEAD AERIAL ARTIST...



THE RAZOR-
EDGE WENT RIGHT THROUGH
THE THIN SOLES... POOR
DEVIL! HE NEVER HAD
A CHANCE!

WHAT
WE DO
NOW,
MASTER?
TELL YOUNG
BANNER?



WE'LL ASK BANNER IF
HE'LL LET US HELP
HIM—OH-OH! WE'RE
INTERRUPTING!

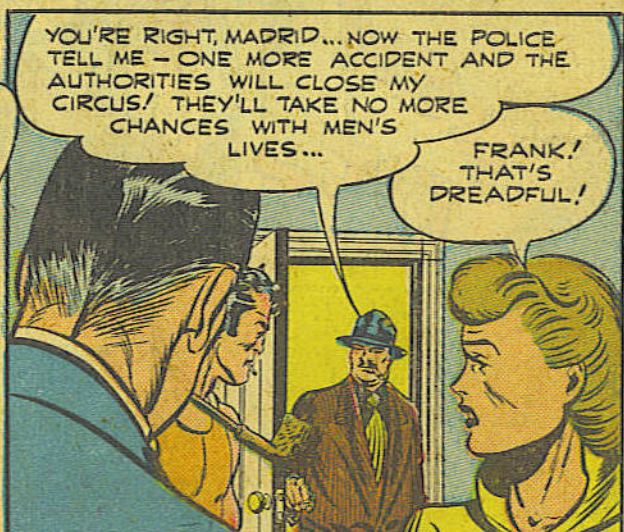
IT'S NO
USE...
FRANSISCO
—YOU KNOW
HOW I
FEEL!



NO, NO! DO
COME IN MR.
RISK... FRAN-
SISCO MADRID,
HERE, FEELS
TERRIBLY
ABOUT HIS
DEAD PART-
NER... HE'S
ALL BROKEN
UP!

I
SEE...
WHERE
IS FRANK
?

MISTER
BANNER IS
WITH
POLICE... HE
WILL BE BACK
SOON... MISTER
BANNER WITH
POLICE A LOT
LATELY...



YOU'RE RIGHT, MADRID... NOW THE POLICE
TELL ME — ONE MORE ACCIDENT AND THE
AUTHORITIES WILL CLOSE MY
CIRCUS! THEY'LL TAKE NO MORE
CHANCES WITH MEN'S
LIVES...

FRANK!
THAT'S
DREADFUL!



MAYBE CIRCUS OWNER TOO
SMART... NOT GET CAUGHT
WITH BAD STUFF, EH?
BAD WIRE CHEAPER
THAN GOOD
WIRE!

WHY,
YOU —



I'VE TAKEN ALL
THE INSINUATIONS
AND INSULTS FROM YOU
THAT I'M GOING TO
TAKE...



MAYBE TRUTH
HURT, HUH?
LIKE MY
FIST...!

**BREAK
IT
UP!**

RISK, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! YOU HEARD WHAT MADRID SAYS... ALL THE PERFORMERS ARE SAYING THE SAME THING! BUT I BUY ONLY THE BEST EQUIPMENT...

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY!

OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU, FRANK! ABDUL AND I WILL GO OVER EVERYTHING WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB...

POOR DARLING... AS LONG AS MR. RISK IS GOING TO HELP, WHY NOT LET HIM SEE THOSE THREATENING LETTERS YOU'VE RECEIVED?

YES, GIVE THEM TO HIM!



HERE THEY ARE!

HMM... MIGHTY INTERESTING! AS A MATTER OF FACT... THEY GIVE ME A RATHER IMPORTANT CLUE...



THAT NIGHT, A FURTIVE FIGURE CREEPS BETWEEN TRUNKS AND COSTUMES...

GOT TO SEARCH TRUNKS... FIND WHAT MASTER NEEDS...



CAUGHT YOU!



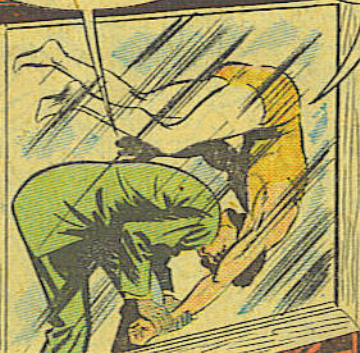
HOW MUCH BANNER PAY YOU, BIG BOY? T'INK I CUT YOU DOWN TO MY SIZE!



THE GIANT BEDOUIN WHIRLS AND CATCHES MADRID IN A WRESTLING HOLD...

MASTER SAY NOT HURT ANYONE! BUT I JUST TEST MY MUSCLES — LIKE THIS!

LET GO... Y-YOU FOOL! YOU'LL ... KILL ME!



NOW, TO SEE MASTER — TELL HIM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED!



FATER

HERE KNIFE AND LETTERS ABDUL FIND IN MADRID'S TRUNK!

GOOD WORK, ABDUL... HMM... THESE SEEM TO BE JUST WHAT WE NEED!



NEXT DAY...

I WON'T DO IT, BANNER!

I TELL YOU I'LL QUIT BEFORE I'LL GO UP ON THAT HIGH WIRE! LET MADRID RISK HIS NECK... I WON'T! NOT EVEN A SAFETY NET!

BUT THE SHOW MUST GO ON! WE NEED A PARTNER FOR MADRID!

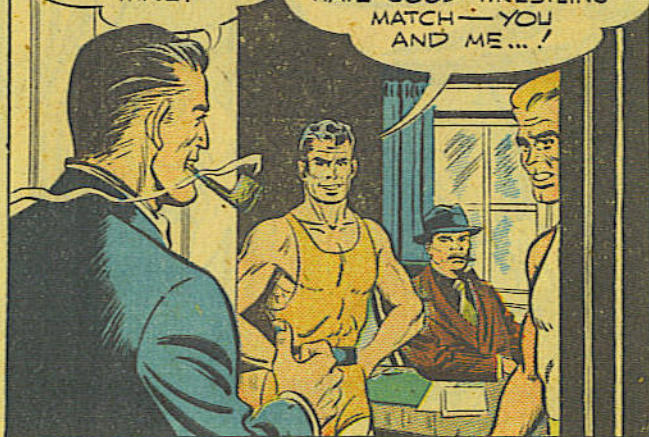


NOBODY'S CRAZY ENOUGH TO GO UP THERE! ANOTHER ACCIDENT COULD HAPPEN. ANYTIME! FORGET THE HIGH-WIRE STUFF! IT'S TOO GREAT A RISK!



I'LL TAKE THAT RISK! LET ME GO UP ON THE HIGH WIRE!

THAT FINE, RISK... I LIKE VER' MUCH TO HAVE YOU UP THERE WITH ME! WE HAVE GOOD WRESTLING MATCH — YOU AND ME...!



I WON'T LET YOU! THAT ACT WORKS WITHOUT A SAFETY NET!

DON'T BE SILLY, FRANK... REMEMBER—I USED TO BE ON THE HIGH WIRES A FEW YEARS BACK... I CAN HANDLE MYSELF!

I GO—MAKE READY!

FAR UP TO THE TOP OF THE BIG TENT GOES MR. RISK...

IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME... MY SENSE OF BALANCE... HOW TO CONTROL MY MUSCLES... A FEW MORE SECONDS AND—BRING ON MADRID!

NOW, YOU AND I—AND ONLY ONE OF US—WILL COME OUT ALIVE, MR. RISK!

FEEL PRETTY CONFIDENT, DON'T YOU?

AM CONFIDENT! AM GREATEST AERIAL ARTIST ALIVE! YOU SEE? I COULD PUSH YOU OVER NOW... HEH, HEH!

I WANT TO TELL YOU FIRST, THAT I KILL ACROBATS! YOU SEND ABDUL SEARCH MY TRUNK! BUT YOU NEVER LIVE TO TALK!

WHEW! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!

HA! HA! HOW YOU FEEL NOW, RISK? HA! HA! HA!

NOW IS TIME FOR YOU TO—**DIE!**

RISK'S
HAND
FLASHES
IN
MIDAIR,
CATCHES
HOLD
OF
THE
WIRE! HIS
OTHER
HAND
SLAMS
INTO
MADRID'S
ANKLE...
DESTROYS
HIS
BALANCE!

SUPPOSE YOU
COME DOWN
HERE!

NO! NO!
I BE
KILLED!



THE FALLING MURDERER MAKES
A DESPERATE GRASP FOR MR. RISK'S
FOOT... CATCHES HOLD... TIGHT!

TAKE IT EASY FRANCISCO! THE
NET WILL BE UNDER US IN A
JIFFY AND WE CAN MAKE THE
TRIP DOWN TOGETHER!

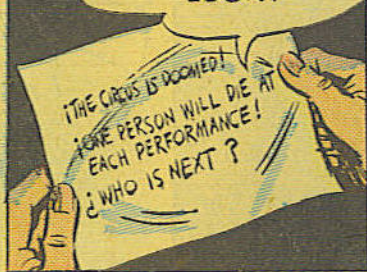


L
A
T
E
R

ABDUL FOUND THE
KNIFE AND LETTERS
IN MADRID'S TRUNK.
HE USED IT TO SLICE
THE WIRE AND INSERT
THE RAZOR BLADES... THE
LETTERS ARE FROM A RIVAL
CIRCUS, OFFERING MADRID
MONEY TO BREAK UP THE
BANNER CIRCUS!



MADRID LOVED GWEN!
HE THOUGHT THAT BY
MAKING FRANK QUIT,
AND GETTING THE PER-
FORMERS TO GO TO THE
RIVAL CIRCUS, GWEN
WOULD LEAVE FRANK
AND MARRY HIM! BUT,
THE SPANISH PUNCTUATION
GAVE HIM AWAY...
LOOK!



I'M GRATEFUL,
MR. RISK...
YOU SAVED
MY CIRCUS
AND
MAYBE
—MY
GWEN!

WELL,
THAT
WAS
WORTH
TAKING A
RISK FOR,
EH, FRANK?



SUR-PRIZE CONTEST

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 ST PRIZE | • \$15 ⁰⁰ |
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JULY

SUPER- MYSTERY

COMICS

10¢

YER NUMBER'S
UP, BERT AND SUE
AND NOBODY WILL
EVER KNOW WE
DID IT!

DON'T BE TOO
SURE, KILLER!
YOU HAVEN'T
RECKONED WITH
THE
UNKNOWN!

BIG
CASH
PRIZES
SEE LAST
PAGE